



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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**FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS LOUISVILLE MAN AFTER HE TRAVELED TO
LOUISVILLE AIRPORT ATTEMPTING
TO PICK UP A 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL TO ENGAGE IN SEX**

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment against **Craig Nea Stover**, age 59, of Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, on charges of using the Internet to attempt to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a minor to engage in sexual activity for which a person can be charged with a criminal offense as well as attempting to transport that same minor from Ohio to Kentucky in order to engage in the same sexual activity, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

The Indictment alleges that between February 8, 2007, and May 23, 2007, Stover used the internet to communicate with a person who had not reached the age of 18 to engage in sexual activity. The Indictment also charges that during May 2007, Stover attempted to transport the minor in interstate commerce for the purpose of having sex with her. According to an affidavit previously filed in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant, law enforcement officials became aware of Stover's criminal conduct as the result of Stover "chatting" on the Internet with an undercover New Waterford, Ohio, policeman. Stover chatted with a person he believed to be a 14-year-old girl as well as her father. As their communications progressed, Stover eventually offered to, and actually bought, a plane ticket for the girl to fly from Ohio to Kentucky.

The on-line communications show that Stover advised the officer posing as the “father” that he was interested in having sexual relations with the 14-year-old girl. After the officer introduced his "daughter" to Stover, Stover continued the on-line and telephonic communications with the “father” as well as the “daughter” up to and including May 23, 2007. During the chats, he revealed his name was Craig, he was 45 years old and indicated where he lived in Louisville, Kentucky, and provided his telephone number. “Sean” sent digital photographs of himself to the “father” and “daughter,” including pictures of his face and naked, semi-erect penis and asked for photographs from the “daughter” who responded by sending one photograph - fully clothed.

During the on-line communications, Stover made plans with the “father” and “daughter” to have an in-person meeting with the “daughter” to have sexual intercourse with the girl. The three agreed that she could fly to Louisville, Kentucky, on May 24, 2007. Stover, using the same screen name as the one he had used during the communications with the undercover officer, purchased an airline ticket in the girl’s name. Stover used his VISA card to purchase the ticket.

During the on-line communications, Stover specifically requested that the two engage in various sexual relations including oral and vaginal sex, both in and out of his hot tub. Stover also asked the "father" if the girl was interested in having sex with an older man. During one such chat, Stover asked the “father” if the girl could get pregnant. After the "father" suggested that it was possible, Stover indicated that he had had a vasectomy and asked if it would be O.K. to ejaculate into the girl’s vagina. During several communications, Stover asked the “father” to send him videos of the 14-year-old girl in the nude and of her having sexual intercourse with other men.

During recent communications involving finalizing plans to meet the girl at the Louisville Airport, Stover stated he would be holding a teddy bear and would meet her at the checkpoint area on the inside of the airport where arriving passengers walk through. On May 24, 2007, Stover walked directly to the monitor displaying the arriving flights where arriving passengers enter the main terminal area. An FBI agent immediately approached Stover, identified himself as an FBI Agent, and placed Stover under arrest. The FBI advised Stover of his constitutional rights, and asked for consent to search his vehicle, which he agreed. During the initial search of Stover, a brown teddy bear was located in a white plastic bag which Stover was holding at the time of his arrest. Also, Stover was holding a US Airways travel confirmation with flight information for the 14-year-old girl in his hand. Agents also recovered the VISA card used to purchase the girl's plane ticket from Stover.

In the event of a conviction, Stover faces a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years. The maximum potential penalties include life imprisonment, a \$500,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of at least 5 years and could include life.

Stover is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on June 26, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in Louisville, Kentucky. United States Magistrate Judge James D. Moyer previously ordered Stover detained based upon the dangerousness to the community posed by Stover's conduct.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify

and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless is prosecuting the case. The Federal Bureau of Investigation led the investigation with significant assistance from the Kentucky State Police and New Waterford (Ohio) Police Department.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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